

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 892

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Laura Matney upon her selection as Southern District Elementary School Physical Educator of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Laura Matney is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Matney has recently been selected as Southern District Elementary School Physical Educator of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a positive influence on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, the members of NASPE's Southern District, which represents a thirteen-state area from Virginia to Texas, selected Laura Matney as their Physical Educator of the Year for her outstanding teaching performance at the elementary school level and her ability to motivate today's youth to participate in a lifetime of physical activity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Matney, a physical education specialist at Woodland Elementary School, will be recognized at the Annual NASPE convention in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, at the convention, Laura Matney will compete against five other district winners for the prestigious "National Teacher of the Year Award"; the national winner will be announced at the Hall of Fame Banquet on April 2, 2004; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity at Woodland Elementary School since 1999, Laura Matney graduated from East Tennessee State University with a Master of Arts degree; she also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Milligan College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Matney is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Laura Matney blends cutting-edge technology, such as insta-pulse bars, PowerPoint presentations, digital pictures, and video instruction, with more standard and typical physical education lessons to encourage her students to "progressively learn to take ownership of their personal fitness"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Matney has written and received grants to purchase additional equipment and instructional materials, including a climbing wall, climbing rope, cargo net, Digi-Walker, sports equipment, and physical education videos, for Woodland students; and

WHEREAS, when U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist visited Woodland last year to view Mrs. Matney's heart health program, he was impressed by the innovative curriculum that offers academic, as well as physical benefits, for students; Senator Frist said: "I saw firsthand Laura's commitment and dedication to her students, her enthusiasm for teaching, and her tireless efforts to keep youth excited about health and fitness"; and

WHEREAS, outside the classroom, Laura demonstrates an estimable sense of dedication to her profession; she is involved in numerous professional associations, including the National Association for Sport and Physical Education/American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NASPE/AAHPERD), the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (TAHPERD), Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and the Tennessee and National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Associations; and

WHEREAS, Laura Matney truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Laura Matney should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mrs. Laura Matney on being chosen the Southern District Elementary School Physical Educator of the Year by NASPE, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, and salute her professional expertise and personal excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mrs. Matney our best wishes in the competition for National Physical Educator of the Year and for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.